



# PARISH NEWS

To Glorify God ♦ To Grow in Faith ♦ To Give in Service ♦ Together in Christ

Grace Lutheran Church, Hatfield PA

Rev Nancy M Raabe

July 2022

## From Pastor Raabe: The Gift of the Psalms

If you find that your soul is restless, that you are consumed by anxiety or worry and cannot find comfort, there is no better place to go than the Psalms.



I am glad that we are including them in our worship each week, because this “prayer book of the Bible” is an invaluable resource for grounding us in the love of God in the midst of the realities that we deal with every day. The psalms of lament and in particular have much to offer us. What I find extraordinary about these is not only the timeless cries of troubled souls that speak powerfully to us across space and time, but also the extraordinary turn of faith that comes in each one. It is always revealing to identify the particular spot where the psalmist remembers the goodness, grace, and steadfastness of God—the place where lament turns to thanksgiving, and faith and hope are renewed.

I have been looking lately especially at Psalm 77. At the beginning the psalmist expresses the confidence that God hears his cries:

<sup>1</sup>I will cry aloud to God;  
I will cry aloud, and God will hear me.

He then goes on to lament the torture that he finds himself in the midst of, Illness? War? Death? The psalms are never specific, so that we may better place ourselves there in the midst of our own situation. As he continues, the more the psalmist reflects on his troubled spirit, the more he begins to wonder if God is really there at all. We then come to these heart wrenching verses:

<sup>8</sup>Has God’s steadfast love come to an end forever?  
Has the Lord’s promise failed for all time?

<sup>9</sup>Has God forgotten to be gracious,  
and in anger withheld compassion?

<sup>10</sup>And I said, “My grief is this:  
The right hand of the Most High has changed.”



At the end of verse 10, time seems to stop. The psalmist has arrived at a precipice. He has come to doubt everything he thought he knew about God. Blackness opens before him, the blackness of utter despair.

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Then comes the breathtaking turn in verse 11:

<sup>11</sup>I will remember the works of the LORD,  
and call to mind your wonders of old.

As we look toward fall and the resumption of our two-service schedule (see page 3), I will be pursuing the opportunity for Christian education between services with renewed vigor. Adult Christian education is one of the marks of the church, and a journey through selected psalms for a few weeks would make an outstanding unit for study. We might even look at musical interpretations of some of these psalms. I recently came across a powerful rendering of Psalm 77 by Scottish composer John Bell which I used in a recent Compline service. Day and night it has continued to haunt my musical imagination.

In the fall I will also be starting a "Brown Bag Bible Study at 11 a.m. (bring your lunch) on second and fourth Wednesdays, looking at the texts for the coming Sunday. This can easily be hybrid if you want to Zoom in.

Join me in these and other opportunities that will open before us for immersing ourselves more deeply in God's word. As we move into the long days of summer sunshine, may the peace of Christ continue to glow and grow in your hearts.



### **From Our Minister of Music**

Summer always comes and goes, you know? Before it does, I've a few things to mention that I'm hoping will excite you. I'm sure all of you might remember the young pianist, Julian Nguyen, who played piano at Grace a handful of times with the choir and some solo piano music in worship. We welcomed Julian and encouraged him to continue learning piano and he is in fact doing very well on that front. I recently heard from his piano teacher, Dan Green, who is a local music teacher. Mr. Green and I made a really nice connection recently and he's planning to showcase his students in a recital in late July on a Saturday afternoon. There is a good chance the recital may be here at Grace on July 30th at 2:00 pm. As of the time of this writing, there are still details to iron out, but I wanted to at least have that date up front for you to put into your calendar. Please check back in our Grace Notes over the next few weeks as I will have confirmation on this for you.



Will Shaffer... I think of him as Mr. Trumpet extraordinaire! His playing is brilliant and spot on when it comes to pitch and musical expression. He played on Father's Day at worship, but I wanted to also let you know that Will and I are going to put together a concert with the new organ. I'm looking at music for the concert this week to get the ball rolling and I have to say I'm very excited because the music in the concert will be something for everyone and all ages to enjoy. More about this will be forthcoming but my wheels are spinning and I think this will be a lot of fun. We're considering something in late summer or early fall. So look for more info about this soon!

My very best to all of you.

Kevin

## **Congregational worship times survey and Council decision: Returning to two services in the fall**

By Pastor Nancy Raabe

Your Congregation Council and I are sometimes charged with making difficult decisions for the well-being of the body of Christ. Such a decision was before us at our June 21 council meeting concerning our worship service times.

Thirty-two of you returned the survey we sent out, electronically or by mail, and the results indicated that a sizable majority preferred moving to one service at 9:15. Meeting earlier in June, the Worship and Music committee drafted a recommendation, based on these results, that we move to one service for the remainder of the year and, in the fall, once again reconsider whether this would become permanent. The results of the survey and the comments received, plus the recommendation, were presented to Council at the June 21 meeting. After a vigorous and heartfelt discussion, the vote was taken. I can say with assurance that everyone was surprised at the result: 6 to 3 against the recommendation.

After a stunned silence, someone asked, “What does this mean?” given that we had rejected the recommendation of a faithful ministry team. With abiding respect for their work, it means that we will be returning to our schedule of two Sunday services at 8 and 10:30 a.m. beginning in September, with Sunday School at 9:15 a.m.

I concur with this decision. It is a matter more of the heart than the mind. My mind tells me that it would be logical to move to one service on Sunday mornings, because we have more of a sense of our unity as a body if we are actually all together. But my heart tells me that the two-service schedule feeds our souls.

What I heard in our long discussion at the June 21 meeting was a deep love for and devotion to that early hour of the morning for worship, the peacefulness of that time and the chance to begin the day in God's presence rather than moving into it when the day is already underway. I was deeply touched by this reverence, which I had not fully appreciated before. At that moment I experienced a change of heart on this issue. My heart also tells me that our older members for whom it takes longer to get going in the morning are better served by having a later option.

That is the real issue: Which schedule better serves the deep needs of our members? Following Christ means that we find ourselves needing to make sacrifices along the way that are representative of the sacrificial love that comes to us in the person of Jesus Christ--he who gave his own life for us, that we might have the fullness of life that God desires for us. Christ's way is difficult, challenging, and demanding. But in giving himself for us, he asks no less than we do the same for each other.



Your Council and I recognize that this decision goes not only against the Worship and Music Committee's recommendation but also against the results of the survey. Yet we trust that God in Christ through the Holy Spirit continues to be at work in the life of our congregation, in ways that are often beyond our immediate understanding. Please pray for Grace Lutheran Church and for the promise of gathering, growing and serving that continues to be a gift from God in this time and place.



## July Serving Schedule

Date	Altar Guild	Communion Assistant	Lector	Acolyte	Ushers	Coffee Hour
<b>9:15 am Service</b>						
<b>07/03/22</b>	Kay Stone	Frank Stone	Richard Badman	Usher	Kay Deussing and Kay Stone	Kay Stone
<b>07/10/22</b>	N/A	N/A	Beth Krout	Elijah Krout	Jeff & Beth Krout	Kay Stone
<b>07/17/22</b>	Emily Woltmann	Jaime Snyder	Jean Shaffer	Lennon Kaler	Don Capanear and TBD	Diane Ball
<b>07/24/22</b>	N/A	N/A	Slugg Family	Jayson Tula	Slugg Family	Don Capanear
<b>07/31/22</b>	N/A	N/A	Frank Stone	Usher	Kay & Frank Stone	Kay Stone

## July Calendar

- The Central Philadelphia (Korean) Church will be worshipping on Sundays at noon in the Sanctuary.
- Tues. are Bread Drop Sandwich Days. The coolers will be out from 8am-7pm.
- Yoga will resume in **September**

### Sun July 3, 2022 9:15am **Worship/ Communion**

#### **Independence Day Coffee Hour and Old-Time Singalong after worship**

Mon July 4, 2022 Happy Independence Day! Church Office & Stepping Stones closed

Tue July 5, 2022 7:00pm Stitches

### Sun July 10, 2022 9:15am **Worship**

Tue July 12, 2022 9:30am Grace hosts Summer Youth Camp

Day of Service

7:00pm Property Team Meeting

7:00pm Worship & Music Team Meeting

Wed July 13, 2022 6:30pm Grace Picnic at the Schmidts' home

Sat July 16, 2022 5:00pm Habitat MontDelCo Volunteer Appreciation Night at Grace

### Sun July 17, 2022 9:15am **Worship/ Communion**

Tue July 19, 2022 7:00pm Council Meeting (Zoom option)

### Sun July 24, 2022 9:15am **Worship** (with supply pastor Deacon Mary Konopka)

Tue July 26, 2022 7:00pm INReach Meeting

Wed July 27, 2022 6:30pm Grace Picnic at Barb Watts' home

### Sun July 31, 2022 9:15am **Worship**

**During the Week:** Join Pastor Raabe live on Facebook for the **Night Prayer** service every Monday at 9pm, and look for her **Sermon Trailer** on Wednesday on Facebook and our YouTube page. Stay in touch with Grace!



## Sale of 22 N. Main Street

At the congregational meeting the congregation voted to sell the house and property at 22 N Main Street, Hatfield. Church Council appointed a committee, made up of representatives from both the finance and property committees, to move that goal forward. The “22 N Main Sale Team” oversaw the clean out and preparation of the house for sale, the settlement of a very untimely insurance claim for a broken pipe, interviewing and hiring a real estate agent, negotiating and finally completing the sale of the property.

The broken pipe was to a second-floor radiator that caused water to run down into the living room and damaged the ceiling and floor. The team placed a claim with our insurance carrier, who sent an adjuster to review the damage and prepare an estimate for repairs. They sent us a final check for damages in the amount of \$33,241.46.

The team chose to list the property with Realtor Geoff Slick who walked us through the process. The team was originally hoping to get a sale price of just over \$200,000. The Team reviewed more than 10 offers and chose to go with the highest offer in the amount of \$255,000 with nearly all costs covered by the buyer. After sale expenses, adjustments, commissions, taxes, and the payoff of the existing mortgage on that property in the amount of \$37,560.85, Grace received a check for the proceeds in the amount of \$200,179.52! That is a net that is in excess of what we hoped the gross price would be. The finance and property teams have carefully considered the use of this money and it was determined to not spend the proceeds of the sale or the insurance claim payment money immediately, but to place the money in a savings account for three months to allow time for research on current needs and other projects. Any suggestions will be welcomed. Once a plan for spending the proceeds has been formulated, a proposal will be brought to the Congregation.

## WORDS OF GRATITUDE

- For all those who signed up for the Faith Build on June 25. Thanks for your hard work and energy!
- For our WELCA group for sponsoring lunch for Faith Builders on June 10 and to our HEART team for providing desserts.
- For those involve in setting up, cleaning up and providing for our Coffee Hour. It’s wonderful to be able to relax and visit together after worship.
- To Geoff Slick of Keller Williams for his expert management of our sale and navigating us through several competing offers plus more than five dozen showings, and for making a gift to Grace.

*Thank  
You*

## WELCA

We would like to thank Joyce and Tom Salter for inviting us once again to their house for our picnic which was the last meeting for this season. After the picnic a few of us went to the church to fill 100 snack bags for the National Guards training in Willow Grove. I hope everyone has a great summer, take care and stay healthy. -- Barb Watts

## Books for Babies- 2022

After a hiatus due to Covid, Books for Babies started up its collection of young baby books for Mitzvah Circle Foundation. Through all of your efforts, we collected 180 books for the children. This is such a wonderful ministry to families in need. Thank you all so much for your donations. Giving families the gift of literacy can open many doors for their futures.

Thank you to Donna Klementisz for help delivering the books to the new location of Mitzvah Circle. We met up again with Karen Duffy, the site manager and a former Stepping Stones parent, who gave us a grand tour. God Bless you all.



## Summer Wednesday Evening Picnics

Grace Summer Picnics will be held in July and August! Dinner will be served at **6:30 pm**. Bring your favorite **picnic dish** to share and a lawn chair or blanket. If you have a favorite **outdoor game** to share, bring it too.

*Event is rain or shine!!*

**July 13<sup>th</sup>** is our first picnic hosted by Peggy and Bruce Schmidt at their home.

155 Forest Way, Hatfield

**July 27<sup>th</sup>**, Barb Watts will be our host at her home.

147 N. Main Street, Hatfield

**August 10<sup>th</sup>**, Carol and Paul MacDonald will host a picnic at their home.

1999 Rosemarie Way, Hatfield

**August 24<sup>th</sup>**, the Slugs and Krouts will host our final picnic at Grace.



**Habitat MontDelCo Volunteer Appreciation Night** will be held here at Grace on **July 16 from 5-8 p.m.** in the parking lot. All who have participated in the Faith Build in any way are welcome. That includes those of you who helped approve our relationship to this wonderful project, those who worked on it or provided lunches, and those who purchased birdhouses, spaghetti dinners, or wine through OneHope Wines. Isn't that just about everybody? All are welcome!

The tentative plan is to have a barbecue/picnic with burgers, veggie burgers, hot dogs, and picnic sides, etc. There will be a short program around 7 p.m. to thank core volunteers (the ones that constantly helped constructions sites and in ReStore) and other volunteers throughout our various programs. Then fun for all ages with lawn games such as corn hole and lawn tic-tac-toe, and s'mores.



## PRAYER LIST

Please let Pastor Raabe know if you would like someone added to this list, or if someone you have added is no longer in need of urgent prayers.



### **In Need of Ongoing Prayers:**

Liz Bauer, Suzanne Colville, Cheryl Davis (Paul MacDonald's sister), Marilyn Forst, Helen Godshall, Bob Kaler, Peggy Long, Hazel Mascaro, Gerry Mason (Richard Badman's son), Pam Matolicz, Bob Rufe (Mary Jane Moyer's brother), Joyce Salter, Nancy Sellers, Bailey Vinson, (Liz Bauer's great-granddaughter).

### **In Current Need of Prayers:**

Cassi Lambert, Kristopher Yoder, Annette Beyer, Cindy Kunkel, Ron and Karen Hudson, Lisa Kane, Jerry Mascaro, Lorraine Snyder, Vickie West, Sandy Klinger, Janet Williams (Carol MacDonald's mother), the Scarola family (dear friends of Peggy & Bruce Schmidt), Debbie Hendricks (cousin of Mary Jane Moyer), Debbie Zuech-Smyrl, Madiafe Sheriff, Rhonda Wagner Berger (granddaughter of the Wagner property original owners), Dean Moore, Don Cabrera (Jean Shaffer's daughter's father-in-law), Peg Malloy, Diane Miller, Donna Herman (friend of the Badmans), Judith Stangl (John's sister), Daniel Hopwood (Tom Hopwood's son), Laurie Ronan (the MacDonalds' neighbor), Jim Finnemeyer (John and Jean Weierman's nephew), Sue & Faith Rowbottom, Deb Mandell (Cub Pack 510 treasurer), Lucia Morales (Crystal Tula's mother-in-law).

**For all who grieve, including the family and friends of:** Ralph Schultz (Karen Seiler's father), Jeff Hinton (friend of Frank & Kay Stone).

**For those in active duty military service:** Robert McNulty, Marines, Jessica Murphy, Air Force; Matthew Smyrl, Army; Nathaniel Smyrl, PA Army National Guard

**For active military deployed overseas:** Kyle Murphy, Air Force; Matthew Smyrl, Army

**BREAD DROP** is proud to announce that since our founding at Grace in April 2020 we have delivered 250,000 PB&J sandwiches to hungry people in 3 Southeastern Pennsylvania counties! The group now consists of just under 200 volunteers who make sandwiches, bag fruit and assemble the snack bags that are delivered to food



pantries and places that directly distribute donations to people who are unhoused. And although we are really not in the clothing business, throughout the winter we delivered hundreds of coats, hats, gloves, socks and blankets to the most vulnerable people in our area, those living outside with no shelter.

Last month Bread Drop strengthened its partnership with the E-Meal Ministry of Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Souderton by moving their refrigeration and packaging operation to Emmanuel, which will allow closer collaboration on purchasing, staffing and distribution. We are looking for additional volunteers from Grace to help expand these ministries. The need continues to grow and your contribution of a couple of hours a week will make a difference. See Lou

Farrell or call (215-353-8947) to get involved.

**STEPPING STONES UPDATE:** Stepping Stones is on the move! With Summer Camp in full swing we are super excited to finally get back to field trips this Summer! The Dancing Dinosaurs will be visiting Legoland on July 13th and then celebrating Christmas in July with a tour of the Byer's Choice factory! Water play will be resuming for the rest of our groups and we will also have a visiting petting zoo this month! We can't wait to share our Summer with you!

Jessica Moran, Director



## EEC Food Cupboard

Your generous donations and volunteer time are a wonderful blessing and so helpful as we are all dealing with extremely high prices at the grocery stores. Thank you for continuously providing for your Hatfield neighbors in need. Below, please find the most recent pantry shortages. Your donations can be placed in our narthex bins, OR, if necessary, in the outside food cupboard plastic bins located by the doors leading into Stepping Stones (preferably on Sunday mornings when it can be brought inside). Please be aware...if food is left outside in the heat, it might not be picked up for a few days.

**Latest Needs:** canned spinach, baked beans, salad dressing, box potatoes, cold cereal (No Cheerios), mayonnaise, ketchup, mustard, hair conditioner, laundry detergent, men's & women's shaving cream and razors, body wash.

### Upcoming distribution dates & times:

Tuesdays 5:30 - 6:30 pm: July 5 and 19

Tuesdays 1 - 2 pm: July 12 and 26

The food cupboard is open to all Hatfield borough residents, so please reach out if you, or someone you know, would benefit from receiving supplemental food/household items. Messages for Janet Hague can be left at 215-855-2540; [foodcupboard@yahoo.com](mailto:foodcupboard@yahoo.com).

You can also call Carol MacDonald @215-872-0472.



## Exciting youth opportunities this summer

### Summer Youth Service Camp July 12-15 at Grace, St. Paul's Telford and Emmanuel Souderton for 4<sup>th</sup> grade through high school:

Three days of activity and fun for hosted by these three churches of the Indian Valley Cluster, from 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. each day (lunch included), followed by a day of fun at Dorney Park. Each church will host a day of service projects, activities, and games. Our day is July 12. We'll be packing snack and fruit bags for Bread Drop, working at the EEC Food Cupboard. Look also for a visit by Grace's favorite furry friend, Mr. Smart T. Pants, who has a lot to teach us about caring for animals. There is no registration fee and all expenses are included. Sign up now at <https://tinyurl.com/22youth>.



**VBS: "Food Truck Party," August 1-4 at Little Zion Lutheran Church, 267 Morwood Rd, Telford.** Grace families, with children of all ages, let's join with our neighboring churches for the Food Truck Party Vacation Bible School from 9 am-12 noon on August 1-4. Hosted at Little Zion Lutheran and partnering with Grace and St. Paul's Lutheran, Telford and Zwingli UCC, Souderton, we're looking for "chefs" in preschool (age 3) - entering grade 5. During our Food Truck Party, we'll learn about the ways that God loves us so we can love others. We're also looking for teens and adults with a passion for sharing God's love with kids. Even if you are only available to volunteer for some of the time, helpers are needed for many roles, from assisting with snack time to leading our Pre-K group. For more information about VBS and to volunteer, contact Pastor Raabe here at Grace, call Little Zion's church office at 215-723-7404, or email [administrator@littlezion.org](mailto:administrator@littlezion.org).





If you are in need of pastoral care or are looking for a helping hand for any reason, please contact Pastor Raabe by email; in the office (M-Th 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.) or 215.855.4676; or on her cell phone 614.214.2639. Talk with her about prayer requests, illnesses and hospital stays, weddings, funerals, baptisms, and joyful events in your life.



**Photo policy:** *We may be taking photos or video recordings during Grace events. You will be giving your consent that any pictures and/or video taken may be published and/or distributed by Grace Lutheran Church (i.e. Facebook, website, promotional materials) by attending these events. Please let Pastor or a Church Council member know if you would prefer that you and/or your child's image not be used.*

**Give to Grace:** We rely on your generous giving to sustain Grace and all its ministries. Please see the “Give” page of our website to direct your electronic giving. You can sign up with Pastor Raabe for direct deposit giving, you may text a gift to Grace at 844-613-0815, or you may click on the adjacent QR code to arrange for your gift. Thank you!



**The Word in Season:** Grace continues to subscribe to this daily devotional. If you can't attend church and you'd like it to be mailed to you, please notify our Office Administrator, Lynn Fasick. Sharp eyes for the July-September issue might notice that Pastor Raabe has written the entries for August 4-17.

**Face masks:** Although we continue to hear of cases of Covid-19 in our area, Grace has not reinstated its mask requirement. We remain confident our spaces are safe for gathering, with high ceilings and good circulation, and our Coffee Hour held outside on the veranda. Please be careful by avoiding crowded indoor gatherings and by seeking out patio dining at restaurants.



**Looking ahead to Rally Day, September 11:** Ministry Teams, please be updating your information and photos for your display boards for the Ministry Fair that will mark the opening of our fall season. Also plan to have at least one representative from your team positioned at your table after the 10:30 service that day to talk about what you do. The idea is to get more people involved in all the aspects of our life together – and don't we all want that? We'll also have a potluck after worship to help get the fall off to a great start. Sunday School will begin the following week.

That same day, stop by Generations of Indian Valley, 259 N 2nd St, Souderton, from 2-4 p.m. for the **Community Day of Service** in which Grace is participating. Each church will be representing a nonprofit with which they are partnered. Grace will be packing welcome baskets for the new Faith Build residents, among other activities. If you are a **Thrivent** member, we would greatly appreciate it if you'd be willing to apply for an Action Team grant to sponsor supplies for this event. See Pastor Raabe for more details.

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Stepping Stones 215.368.2052  
Jessica Moran, Director

**July 3**      **Worship/ Communion**  
*Independence Day Coffee Hour and Old-Time Singalong after worship*



**July 4**      **Happy Independence Day!**  
**Church Office & Stepping Stones closed**



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40 N. Main St.  
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